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"(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(c) & (d) The answer is in the negative.

"(e) & (f) The answer is in the negative so far as Deputy Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards are concerned. As regards Divisional Inspectors of Schools, the matter is under consideration."

Fines levied under the City Police Act.

* 109 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO (on behalf of Mr. K. O. Anthoni): Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the amounts of fine collected in the City of Madras for causing obstruction to public thoroughfare (section 71, clause XI, Act III of 1888) in the following years:

1939 and 1946;

(b) whether in view of the increased population of the City during the past few years, greater facilities have been provided by Government to sell fruits, vegetable and other articles in places allotted to them; and

(c) whether it is a fact that orders have been issued by the Government stipulating the minimum fines that shall be levied for certain offences under this Act and if so, whether it is not interfering with the discretion of the magistracy?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" (a) The amounts of fine collected in Madras City for causing obstruction to public thoroughfare under clause XI of section 71 of the Madras City Police Act, 1888, were Rs. 23,500 in 1939 and Rs. 44,420 in 1946.

"(b) Additional facilities have been provided by the Corporation.

"(c) The answer is in the negative. The latter part of the question does not arise."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I take it from the Hon. Minister that the Government have not issued any such instructions?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As I said in the other House to-day, I have not had time to go into details concerning the administration as yet and if the hon. Gentleman will put another question, I shall be able to give better information."

Appointment of an Indian as Surgeon-General.

* 110 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras is falling vacant at an early date;

(b) whether it is proposed to appoint an Indian to the vacancy;

(c) whether it is not the policy of the Government to Indianize the services as and when the vacancies arise;

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(d) whether there are not competent civil medical men and I.M.S. officers, who can fill the post creditably; and

(e) whether the Government propose to consider the claims of I.M.S. officers who have joined the I.N.A., and if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" (a) & (b) The post of Surgeon-General fell vacant due to the grant of leave pending retirement to Major-General J. P. Huban, C.S.I., O.B.E., K.H.S., I.M.S., with effect from the 1st March 1947 and Dr. P. V. Cherian, M.B.E., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), etc., Professor of Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Medical College and Surgeon, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Government General Hospital, Madras, has been appointed temporarily to act as Surgeon-General.

" (c) & (d) Under the rules in force the post of Surgeon-General has been reserved for I.M.S. officers of the 1928 category and the claims of all such I.M.S. officers have to be considered before filling up the vacancy. The question of filling up the vacancy by the appointment of an I.M.S. officer of the 1928 protected category is under consideration. There are competent Provincial officers to hold the post.

" (e) The Government are not aware whether I.M.S. officers have joined in the I.N.A. and as such the question of considering such officers for the post of Surgeon-General does not arise."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know why when there are competent officers in the Provincial Medical Service the Government are not pressing the claims of these people as against the I.M.S. officers of the 1928 protected category? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" As I said already, we are bound by the existing orders that an officer in the 1928 protected category has to be chosen. The Government and particularly my predecessor has written to the Government of India that preference be given to Provincial officers. Though as a matter of fact we have made the selections, representations have been made that we should have the choice of filling up this post with our own Provincial officers. Not only representations have been made but also this Government will do its utmost to get in an officer of the Provincial service there."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" May I for the information of the hon. Member state that we are now working under the Government of India Act, 1935, and appointment of the Surgeon-General is still subject to the control of the Secretary of State for India. A panel of three names for the Surgeon-Generalship has been given to us to choose from and in fact, one name has been suggested. But during the interval a Provincial service officer has been appointed Surgeon-General. It will be the endeavour of this Government, as it has been the endeavour of the previous Government, to get a provincial officer for the post, apart from the control of the Secretary of State. There is an early prospect

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of the Secretary of State giving up his control in this matter and it is possible that we will have a provincial man for the post at an early date.''

MR. PRESIDENT :—'' You may ask the Secretary of State to begin with this.''

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—'' He is already working at it.''

Cancellation of licences of merchants involved in blackmarket operations.

* 111 *Q.*—SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAM CHETTIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the licences of certain cloth merchants were cancelled for being involved in blackmarket operations;

(*b*) if so, their names, by whom it was done, where and on what date; and

(*c*) the policy of Government in dealing with merchants involved in blackmarket operations?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—'' (*a*) Yes.

'' (*b*) The number of cloth licences cancelled during 1944–45 is 7 while that during 1945–46 is 230. A register containing the names of dealers whose licences were cancelled or suspended with the dates on which the orders were issued during the years 1944–46 is with me. The hon. Member can inspect the register if he so desires. The punishments in all these cases were ordered by the Provincial Textile Commissioner or the Joint Provincial Textile Commissioner.

'' (*c*) The policy of the Government is to eliminate from trade as far as possible, unscrupulous dealers who by various means have contravened the control orders and thus failed to serve the public.''

SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAM CHETTIYAR :—'' ஒரு வியாபாரமும் செய்யாதவர்களுக்கு லைசென்ஸ் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள் அல்லவா ? ''

MR. PRESIDENT :—'' The Hon. Minister will reply in Tamil ''

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—'' இந்த Question-க்கும் நீங்கள் கேட்கிறதற்கும் சம்மந்தம் இல்லை.''

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—'' May I know, Sir, whether an appeal lies to the Government against the orders of the Provincial Textile Commissioner or the Joint Provincial Textile Commissioner? ''

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—'' I should like to have notice of that question.''

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—'' May I say that the Government is always the appellate authority in all these matters and the right of appeal is not denied to any person on any matter on which he has a grievance.''